

GENERAL PERMIT FOR WETLANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

This general permit authorizes wetland restoration and enhancement activities in waters of the state. It is intended to allow restoration and enhancement of altered and degraded wetlands. Restoration activities are typically associated with activities such as greenway development, compensatory mitigation activities, habitat enhancement and watershed protection. Such activities include installation and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms; backfilling of existing drainage structures; construction of small nesting islands; plowing and disking for seed bed preparation; and other related activities.

Exclusions

This general permit cannot be used to authorize work in the following circumstances:

- (a) when the activity is located in any waterway which is identified by the Department as having contaminated sediments, and where the proposed work will likely mobilize the contaminants;
- (b) where the activity is located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, a State Scenic River, or waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters;
- (c) when the project will adversely affect a species formally listed on State or Federal lists of threatened or endangered species; or
- (d) when an individual permit is required.

Wetland restoration activities not qualifying for authorization by this general permit may be authorized by individual permit provided all requirements of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* are met.

Notification

The applicant shall apply for coverage to the Division by submission of an original, signed application, which includes the following minimum information:

- (a) a map showing the exact location of the proposed work, and
- (b) a single copy of construction plans or drawings which includes all dimensions and specifications for the proposed work.

Work shall not commence until the applicant has been notified that the activity may proceed under the general permit or with any special conditions imposed by the Division.

General Terms and Conditions

- 1) Prior authorization must be obtained, when necessary, by the applicant pursuant to applicable provisions of §404 of the *Clean Water Act* and §26a of *The Tennessee Valley Authority Act*.
- 2) All materials to be discharged or placed below ordinary high water must be free of pollutants, contaminants, toxic materials, trash, creosote treated timbers, or other wastes as defined by T.C.A. 69-3-103(18).
- 3) Erosion and sediment control measures are required where soil will be disturbed. The control measures must be in place before earthmoving operations begin, maintained throughout the construction period and repaired, if necessary, after rainfall. Control measures such as straw bales and/or silt fence must be installed along the base of all fills and cuts, on the down hill side of stock piled soil, and along the waterbody in cleared areas to prevent movement of sediments into the waters. They must be installed parallel to the waterbody, entrenched and staked, and extend the width of the area to be cleared.

- 4) Slurry water pumped from work areas and excavations must be held in settling basins or treated by filtration prior to its discharge into surface waters. Water must be held in settling basins until at least as clear as the receiving waters. Settling basins shall not be located closer than 20 feet from the top bank of a stream. Settling basins and traps shall be properly designed according to the size of the drainage areas or volume of water to be treated.
- 5) Clearing, grubbing and other disturbance to riparian vegetation shall be limited to the minimum necessary for grading work and equipment operations. Unnecessary vegetation removal is prohibited. All disturbed areas shall be properly stabilized as soon as practicable.
- 6) Appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure that petroleum products or other chemical pollutants are prevented from entering waters of the state. All spills must be reported to the appropriate emergency management agency, and measures shall be taken immediately to prevent the pollution of waters of the state, including groundwater.
- 7) Upon achievement of final grade, all disturbed areas must be stabilized and re-vegetated within 30 days by sodding or seeding and mulching. Seed to be utilized shall include a combination of annual grains and grasses, legumes, and perennial grasses. Lime and fertilizer shall be applied as needed to achieve a vegetative cover.

Effective Date July 1, 2000
Expiration Date June 30, 2005

APPROVED: _____
Paul Davis, Director